10-Year Plan to End Homelessness
Housing Sub-Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2006
3:00 pm
First Congregational Church
241 Cedar Ave., Long Beach, Ca   90802

Self-introductions around the table by those attending.

Sign-in sheet completed and turned over to Leslie Neusteter.

Minutes of the November 22, 2005 meeting were discussed. No changes or corrections made.

Co-Chair, Toby Rothschild – Explained the timeline to accomplish tasks; stated that the Housing Sub-Committee is critical to the 10 Year Plan.

Co-Chair, Jack C. Smith – Other sub-committees are meeting; coordinating information between the various sub-committees; the sub-committee re other cities' 10 year plans has done their presentation to the Working Group and Steering Committee; referred attendees to the chart from that sub-committee that is in the handout packet.

Co-Chair, Maria Giesey – Stated that there is a lot of work to be done; she has created a process plan.

Maria presented the process plan. The plan chart is being converted to computer form by staff and will be made available. The key components of the plan involve studying Current Conditions, identifying Opportunities, setting Priorities, and generating a Draft Plan. Public input along the way is important. Feeder modules to the key components include listing the various Categories of homelessness, discovering the Barriers to solutions, defining User Needs, considering Building Issues, the importance of Confidentiality (don't talk too soon) to Success, identifying potential Funding Sources, and providing Community Reviews of the process and results. To accomplish that process, Maria identified 4 teams to Collect, Analyze, Organize, then Plan. Staff will put the chart into computer format for easier viewing and printing.

Jack commented that a couple of key differences he sees in this process that are different from other cities' plans are Categorization of the different types of homelessness that may need different approaches to solutions, and User Input from the people who need the help.

Maria commented that User Input is very important because different users (homeless people) have different ideas of what they need.

Discussion / comments by Committee Members
- County population is expected to increase approximately 500,000 per year, therefore need to accommodate that population increase; Important to examine how to do that acceptably via scattered sites;
- Costs of emergency room visits and jailing could be better spent;
- Data collection will come via several sources = Health Department, City Consolidated Plan, Housing Action Plan, other reports, input from several departments, etc.;
- A study re hotel occupancy was discussed; based on 9 hotels (not the smaller hotels); showed 74%-75% occupancy in past year; prior year was approx 71%
- A survey was done of 71 smaller motel properties about a year ago; found average nightly rate = $46; divided guests into tourists, business, and "locals" (homeless); data not considered good, but it's a start.
- City and County homeless counts are a starting point of categorization; however, the counts were done to HUD specs, so does not include motels, garages, etc.
- Homeless population is approximately 1% of general population as an overall average
- Analyzing will want to look at priorities and consider the probabilities of solving those problems; will want to look at plans and ideas already within Long Beach
- Re the motels: One owner said values of those properties have risen dramatically; was $30K per unit, now $70K per unit; best bet for use in housing solutions are the community motels and/or neglected apartments; 28 day limit for motel stay is a problem; consider short term apartments; drug/alcohol abuse is a problem; network of small hotel owners will be useful
- Suggestion: change ordinance to allow longer term tenants; property not zoned for long term rental; need to plug the system abuse.
- Re Sober Living house: this sort of housing is congregate housing = several people living together in a house, helping each other out; establishing room-mate rules; problem = sober living not allowed to provide social services; some properties deal with "special needs" people; some people can not live on their own; supportive housing is necessary for some.
- Entrepreneurs can move more quickly to offer solutions to changing needs; have to act within the laws and the rules; some changes to those laws and rules would help; the community has been found to be pretty supportive; red tape takes a lot of time.
- Data collection will reflect needs of goals

Staff will do some fact sheets culled from the mass of information

Next meeting will "attack the matrix" to fill in goals and objectives.

Discussion re the next meeting date and time.

The meeting adjourned.